GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1173
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
WELFARE SCHEMES FOR FISHERMEN
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched for welfare of fishermen;

(b) the steps taken for the safety of fishermen engaged in sea and deep sea fishing;

(c) the policy of the Government regarding deep sea fishing and the use of Troleys;

(d) whether the interests of general fishermen are being considered when Troleys are allowed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The Centrally Sponsored National Scheme for Welfare of fishermen currently under implementation consist of:

i) Fishermen housing scheme with a maximum subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- per beneficiary to be shared equally by Central and State Governments. In the case of Union Territories, the pattern of assistance is 100% by the Central Government;

ii) Provision of drinking water facilities at the rate of one tube well for every 20 houses with a maximum subsidy of Rs.35,000/- to be shared equally by Central and State Governments. In the case of Union Territories, the pattern of assistance is 100% by the Central Government;

iii) One community hall for a village with at least 75 houses;

iv) A group accident insurance scheme for active fishermen with an insurance cover of Rs. 50,000/- against death or permanent disability and Rs. 25,000/ against partial disability caused while fishing operations. The premium is borne equally by the Central and State Governments, while in the case of Union Territories it is fully borne by the Central Government;

v) Saving-cum-Relief Scheme implemented for both marine and inland fishermen wherein the beneficiary`s contribution isof Rs. 600/- in the case of marine fishermen which is matched by an equal contribution shared by the Central and State Governments and distributed in four installments during the lean months. In the case of inland fishermen, the beneficiary`s contribution is Rs. 450/- which is matched by an equal contribution by the Central and State Governments and distributed equally in 3 lean months. In the case of Union Territories their share is also borne by the Central Government.

(b): The safety of coastal fishermen at sea is enhanced through broadcast/ telecast, about weather warnings. Besides a shore to ship communication net work is implemented by the Government in the coastal states. The vessels above 20 m length engaged in deep sea fishing are required to comply with the provisions of sea safety as provided under Indian Merchant Shipping Act (1958) and its compliance is ensured through Mercantile Marine Departments functioning at various ports under Director General, Shipping; Ministry of Shipping.

(c): The policy of the Government in force is not to allow any new fishing permits for foreign fishing vessels and also not to renew any existing permits. There is no policy regarding the use of Troleys.

(d) & (e): Does not arise.